

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a documentary critical of John Kerry days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This program and others like it that masquerade as news are harmful to our democracy. If a program like Stolen Honor is aired, it should be followed by another program like Going Upriver or Fahrenheit 911. Ideally neither program of this type would get an airing and we would see real people from our own communities and more substantive news and discussion about real issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why media ownership rules need strengthened, not further weakened. Their actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.